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SECTION II.

CHAPTER VIII.

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Albania and Southern Yugoslavia. The Costumes worn by Men and Women.

After experiencing nearly five hundred years of Turkish rule it is not surprising to find that much of the costume in Albania and in southern Yugoslavia, which as far north as Pljevlja and Priboj was part of Turkey in Europe until 1913, if not actually Turkish in character shows very strong Turkish influence.

There is also much greater variety in the garments worn by the hill tribes and the peasants and the townsfolk, therefore in the description of those in the collection it has been found advisable to group specimens on some of the Plates so as to give an indication of a complete costume such, for example, as that of the Bulgarian woman from Monastir (Bitolj) (Plate IX), the Catholic woman from Scutari (Plate V) and the essential parts of a woman's dress from Zadrima (Plate X).

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Franz, Baron Nopcsa says that as early as 1912 international European dress had begun to be adopted, more particularly by the men, the young Catholics of Scutari deprecating the older styles, and wearing a combination of European garments with the older head-dress, the fez, and shoes. The younger women also have to some extent discarded the wide trousered skirt and the veil; therefore as all the specimens in this collection belong to the period previous to 1914 they represent native dress when it had its own individuality and, as such, will become increasingly valuable as records.

The following short lists of garments worn by women and men in some of the different districts have been compiled from the collection, and from the works of Baron Nopcsa* and Max Tilke†.

A Catholic woman from Scutari would wear:

(a) A shirt ("kmis") with sleeves, sometimes gathered at the wrist, either short in the body or of three-quarter length.

(b) A full-trousered skirt, often of striped silk, similar to the Moslem example on Plate VIe or "enormous baggy trousers formed of a very wide and much gathered skirt of imported, glazed, purple-black calico, the lower edge of which was sewn together leaving a hole at each corner for the feet. This was not really a trouser, as the legs were not divided, and was very cumbrous" (M.E.D.).

(c) Some form of girdle, either striped silk or a long strip of material with embroidered ends (Plate XVIF).

(d) A sleeveless coat ("giubba") with full skirt reaching to the knees (Plate XIII).

(e) A square of dark or light cloth as a head-dress, or a large net or gauze, embroidered veil, the latter being worn by married women only.

* Franz, Baron Nopcsa: "Albanien, Bauten und Geräte." Berlin, 1935.
† Max Tilke: "The Costume of Eastern Europe." London, 1926.

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342 the entrance is generally in the center of the long side of the house, there are a number of houses (some of them two-story) where the door is on one of the short sides. In this case, the veranda is also found on the short side (Gellert, 1934: 6-7). Gellert (1934: 14) states that complicated houses such as appear in western [171] Bulgaria and Macedonia are missing in east Bulgaria. The Turkish-Oriental style present in southwestern Bulgaria is likewise missing.

• [184] In central Bulgaria the same building materials are used as in eastern Bulgaria. In Ihtimanska Sredna Gora the ground floor may be of stone and bond timbers. The upper story is of brushwood, with or without plaster, or timber-framing filled with mud or unfired bricks. Whitewashing is frequent. Straw is rarely used for roofing and tiles predominate. On the foothills near Cirpan thin chalk slabs are used for roofing. Shingled roofs are absent (Gellert, 1937: 152-3).

One-story houses with a veranda enclosed at the sides are common. The veranda rarely extends along the whole front of the [184] house. In general, these houses are larger in the plains than in Sredna Gora and the Sub-Balkan Basins. In south central Bulgaria (Talešmanli and Monastirski Vrh) the side rooms protrude to such an extent that they are covered with separate hipped roofs the ridge-poles of which are connected with the main roof (Gellert, 1937: 154).

Two-story houses are numerous in the mountain regions. They are usually built on an incline. Very frequently, the veranda is changed into an anteroom and a balcony is added (fig. 56a) (Gellert, 1937: 155). Generally the lower story serves as a shelter for animals, as storage rooms and also as winter living quarters for the family (Ivimy, 1939).

[184] In the mountain regions near Golak and in Mečka on the Topolnica River the houses tend to be squarer and in this case the veranda is bordered only on one side by a room. The roof is in the shape of a flat pyramid, or has only a very short ridgepole (Gellert, 1937: 157). In central Bulgaria one finds the čardak, a [341] balcony on a two-storied house. It differs from the veranda in that it is not as massive and is not built into the building (fig. 56d) (Gellert, 1937: 151).

351 184 Farm Buildings. The material used for the enclosure of farm-yards varies from region to region, and there may be a great variety of forms in a single area. In the mountain regions and in the Sub-Balkan basins the enclosure is made of woven brushwood or, less commonly, of dry masonry or mud. The entrance is a door of simple wickerwork or boards. In some villages at the foot of Sredna Gora and in some western villages the yard is enclosed by a stone wall with inserted bond timbers. In some areas, particularly around Mečka on the Topolnica River, a fence may be lacking. In general however, wood and brushwood are preferred in the mountain regions. In the Marica plain, between Ihtimanska Sredna Gora and Cirpan,

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almost all farms have high walls of unfired brick which are topped with a small roof of straw. The large gateway is also roofed over and has a small door for people. In the eastern Marica plain the fence is of wickerwork or consists merely of a hedge (Gellert, 1937: 161-62). In eastern Bulgaria the enclosure, if present, is a low one of brushwood (Gellert, 1934: 5). 351 184

In the Marica plain there appears to be a difference between the enclosures in the east and west that cannot be attributed to the presence or absence of the necessary raw materials. Gellert believes that the high enclosures in the west are due to a persistence of Turkish traits (Gellert, 1937: 162). Also, in Sredna Gora and the Sub-Balkan basins high walls are limited to the west (Gellert, 1937: 162). [177]

In the mountains and the Sub-Balkan basins the yards are small and crowded together because there is little arable land (Gellert, 1937: 164). When the enclosures are of stone the yards are rectangular; when the fences are of wood or hedges the yards are often rounded and there is often much free land between the separate yards (Gellert, 1937: 165). 351 [311]

Since the houses are generally built to shelter both men and farm animals and have a number of annexes built onto them, one would expect fewer separate farm buildings. Barns are not typical of central Bulgaria. In Ihtiman we find two-roomed barns made of timber-framing and mud. The eaves may be extended and supported by pillars to form a shelter. Only in the extreme east of the Marica plain are barns widespread. Here a small side annex is added to the barn; the entrance is on the short side where the eaves are extended to form a shelter (Gellert, 1937: 158). In Juricite one finds Turkish store houses being used by the Bulgarian population, although in east Bulgaria they are used almost exclusively by the Turks (Gellert, 1937: 160). These are large buildings of woven brushwood with a straw roof that extends far out to the sides. They are generally built on an incline. The entrance is on the short side and the back is rounded (fig. 39) (Gellert, 1934: 3). In Karlovo Basin one finds store houses of wickerwork with straw roofs which have poles attached to the ridge to prevent the straw from being blown away (Gellert, 1937: 159). Stables for sheep in east Bulgaria are long narrow huts of stone covered with straw or reed (Gellert, 1934: 3). In general the various sheds and shelters for animals are of poor construction and have no particular regional characteristics (Gellert, 1937: 159). 343 184 [177]

Summer kitchens are numerous; they are either built onto the house or are in the open, in which case they are covered by a roof of straw, reed, brushwood or brick that is supported on four poles (Gellert, 1937: 160; 1934: 3). 343 [342]

Buildings Outside the Village. Outside mountain villages one finds shepherds' huts of brushwood, round or rectangular in shape, 342 233

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ancient megaron type house of the Indo-europeans. For our object, however, the interesting point is the detailed and concrete description of the farmers' houses of modern Bulgaria, which the writer illustrates with many photographs, plans and sections, so that we may get a clear picture of the architectural shapes and evolution of the Bulgarian house. However, in order, to be clear and to render possible the exact comparison of the Bulgarian house to the Greek one, and considering the fact that the Bulgarian language is not widely known, I shall dwell rather fully on all that concerns this type of house(1). For greater help I am attaching plates, showing the evolution of the Bulgarian house, as it can be drawn from the plans of Bulgarian houses presented by Zlatev.

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A. THE BULGARIAN HOUSE

As it can be deduced from Zlatev's study, the Bulgarian agricultural house does not present the variety of shapes of the Greek house. If we except the troglodyten house which is frequent in some parts of Northern Bulgaria, the Bulgarian country houses belong to the straight-lined rectangular buildings with an eagle-type or saddle-type roof; according to the nature of the ground, they are separated into mountainous and plain types The lowland types are as a rule just like the Greek ones, one-storey and they are built out of stones or bricks, and roofed with tiles or thatch(2). The mountainous types are two-storey, the ground floor being out of stone and the upper either entirely out of wood or with wooden frames which are filled with unbaked bricks or woven branches, and sprayed on both sides with mud mixed with straw. The roof, in the mountainous areas, is covered with tiles or plates, but in some places thatch is also used.

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1) I must here express my warm thanks to Mr. K. Th. Stamatiades who, with his knowledge of the Bulgarian language, has rendered possible my study of Zlatev's book.

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2) According to **C. Jirecek,** Das Fürstenthum Bulgarien, Wien 1891 p. 157 and foll. « over the largest part of the country one can see but poor houses in the villages, of brown earth colour without whitewash; their roofs were mostly covered with mere thatch during the time of Turkish occupation. It is only since the latest years after the liberation, that an increase of tile-roofs is seen from year to year.